

lower string anchoring means secured to the ~~top of said hollow body~~
soundboard wherein one or more of said strings are anchored below the
bridge.

2. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1
wherein the bridge body includes a string retainer body with said string retainer
body having directing means to guide each string from the lower string ~~anchors~~
anchoring means ~~passed past~~ said retainer body to the saddle.

Cancel claim 3, 4, and 5.

6. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 5 ~~14~~ wherein said
adjustable means comprises: adjustable fastening means ~~secures~~ for securing the
bridge body to the bridge plate whereby said fastening means can be readily
loosened and tightened; and said bridge plate has recessed slots in a direction
parallel to the direction of the strings to accommodate said adjustable fastening
means, whereby the bridge body can be adjusted along said recessed slots by
loosening said fastening means, repositioning said bridge body up or down said
recessed slots, and tightening said fastening means.

Cancel claim 7.

8. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 5 ~~14~~ wherein said
lower string anchoring means is comprised of an anchoring module:
said anchoring module having a solid module body with a lower edge and with a
receiving hole on the lower edge of said module ~~body~~ body, each string having
a string ball, said receiving hole having a diameter larger than the string
diameter but smaller than diameter of the ball of the ~~guitar~~ string; and a recess in

said anchoring module body to allow said string to pass through said anchoring module body.

Cancel claims 9 and 10.

11. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein there is a bridge plate underneath said soundboard whereby said bridge plate ~~supports said bridge body~~ stabilizes said soundboard.

12. (previously presented) A stringed musical instrument comprising:
a hollow body having a soundboard and soundhole;
a neck mounted to said hollow body;
one or more strings stretched over said hollow body and said neck;
said neck having upper string anchoring means and means for an upper contact point with the string;
a saddle for providing a lower contact point with the string; and
lower string anchoring means secured to the ~~top of said hollow body~~ soundboard
wherein one or more of said strings are anchored below said saddle.

Add the following claims.

13. A stringed musical instrument comprising:
a hollow body having a soundboard and soundhole;
a neck mounted to said hollow body;
one or more strings stretched over said hollow body and said neck;
said neck having upper string anchoring means and means for an upper contact point with the string;

a bridge body secured on the soundboard and having thereon a saddle for providing a lower contact point with the string, said bridge body including

a string retainer body with said string retainer body having directing means to guide each string from the lower string anchors past said retainer body to the saddle,

lower string anchoring means secured to the soundboard wherein one or more of said strings are anchored below the bridge; and,

wherein said string retainer body

consists of a solid material, and,

has a recess extending through said retainer body whereby said recess is contoured to allow the strings to pass through said recess in a desired spacing relative to the other strings and along a desired horizontal plane between the saddle body and the lower anchoring means.

14. A stringed musical instrument comprising:

a hollow body having a soundboard and soundhole;

a neck mounted to said hollow body;

one or more strings stretched over said hollow body and said neck;

said neck having upper string anchoring means and means for an upper contact point with the string;

a bridge body secured on soundboard and having thereon a saddle for providing a lower contact point with the string;

lower string anchoring means; and,

said bridge body including a string retainer body with said string retainer body having directing means to guide each string from the lower string anchoring means past the retainer body to the saddle, and adjustable means for repositioning said bridge body on said soundboard.

15. A stringed musical instrument comprising:

- a hollow body having a soundboard and soundhole;
- a neck mounted to said hollow body;
- one or more strings stretched over said hollow body and said neck;
- said neck having upper string anchoring means and means for an upper contact point with the string;
- a bridge body secured on the soundboard and having thereon a saddle for providing a lower contact point with the string; and
- lower string anchoring means secured to the soundboard wherein one or more of said strings are anchored below the bridge; and,

wherein said lower string anchoring means is comprised of an anchoring module:

- said anchoring module having a solid module body with a lower edge and with a receiving hole on the lower edge of said module body, each string having a string ball, said receiving hole having a diameter larger than the string diameter but smaller than diameter of the ball of the string; and a recess in said anchoring module body to allow said string to pass through said anchoring module body;
- an outlet hole in said top side of the anchoring module body, said outlet hole allowing the string to extend past said anchoring module body and towards the bridge body.